



Lieutenant Yuma House Honored as 2011 Indian Country Officer of the Year

Posted by Joe LaPorte, PM-ISE Senior Tribal Advisor on Friday, March 9, 2012

Joe LaPorte is the Senior Tribal Advisor for the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment as well as the Chair of the Indian Country Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). [He was recently re-elected to serve another two-year term.](#)^[1]

The Indian Country Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police recently honored Lieutenant Yuma House of the Lower Brule Police Department in South Dakota as the 2011 Indian Country Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the United States, First Nations, or Aboriginal Law Enforcement Officers.

Lieutenant Yuma House was recognized for his heroism and selfless service to the people of the Lower



Brule Reservation. On June 21, 2011, Lt. House responded to a call on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation when a flash flood washed out a road and two cars had fallen into a 50 foot drop created by the flood waters. Realizing that persons were trapped in the cars, Lt House tied a rope to himself and secured it to his car. With the help of onlookers, he waded into the flood waters in an effort to check for the victims in the car. None were located. The driver had been ejected and died on the scene. On August 2, 2011, Lt. House again responded to a two-car traffic accident in which the cars were engulfed in flames. He called for assistance and immediately began to assist occupants of the cars who were pinned inside. He was able to save 2 children, an 8 year old and 3 year old though 5 other persons perished.

Darren Cruzan, Deputy Director, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior presented the award plaque in a recent ceremony.

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